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Town Offices

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Planning Commission
Development Review Board
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Winter Operations Plan

COPY

This policy shall be known as the Town of Fairlee Winter Operations Plan. It has been adopted by the Town of Fairlee Selectboard pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 1121 and 1122. The Selectboard originally adopted a winter operations plan on November 24, 2008 to take effect immediately with a policy revision on December 15, 2008. The current policies herein are effective December 19, 2008, as approved by the Selectboard.

- Plow routes are set up to open the major traffic routes and bus routes first. After all bus routes are done, we will then plow the roads which we feel cause the most problems for the public (based on traffic volume, steepness and curves, etc.) and continue until all roads are open.
- The Town will enforce no parking rules at all places where the plow trucks turn around.
- The Town of Fairlee has only two (2) contracted employees to do winter maintenance on 17 miles of town highway plus all town owned properties. Each has a specific route which takes about 6 hours to complete. This is for one pass through and will vary by storm strength and duration. We vary from these routes only for emergency situations (fire, ambulance, etc.).
- The Town does not plow Class 4 roads or private driveways.
- We usually begin operations at 3:30 a.m. to have major highways and bus routes clear by 7:00 a.m.
- After 16 hours on the job, we are required to stop operations and get a minimum of six (6) hours of rest.
- Salt will be applied to most paved roads, with a minimum amount of sand added as necessary. Salt is not effective when road temperatures are below 20 degrees.
- Sand will be applied to the gravel roads.
- In most cases, there will be no maintenance between 9:30 p.m. and 3:30 a.m.

Depositing snow by blowing or plowing onto the travelled way, shoulder or sidewalk of a Class 1, 2 or 3 town highway violates the Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 19, Section 1105 and Title 23, Section 1126a. Depositing snow onto any highway results in increased maintenance and may result in a highway accident. When snow is blown or plowed across the highway, it may cause slippery conditions or snow berms that in turn could cause an accident. Private parties who violate this statute shall be given a written warning (for town maintained roads). Further violations may result in the issuance of a traffic ticket which carries a \$50 waiver penalty or a civil action may be brought under Section 1105, which carries a fine not to exceed \$1,000 plus costs.

In addition, Vermont Statutes Annotated Title 19, Section 1111 VSA Permitted Use of the Right-of-Way makes it unlawful to construct a fence or building, or deposit material of any kind within, or in any way affecting the grade of a highway right-of-way, or obstruct a ditch, culvert or drainage course that drains a highway, or grade the land adjacent to a highway so as to divert the flow of water onto the highway right-of-way, without written permission from the selectboard, as the case may be.

During snow clearing operations, it is important that motor vehicles do not park next to highways or sidewalks to interfere with snow or ice removal operations. Vehicles can be towed at owner's expense.


The selectboard will notify the Police for the appropriate action against motorists and residents who violate any of the above.



Frank J. Barrett, Selectboard Chair



Ken Gulick



Tim Cramer


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Adopted this 24TH day of Nov., 2008.


Frank J. Barrett, Selectboard Chair


Ken Gulick


Tim Cramer

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